



**CITY OF DURHAM**  
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## **News Release**

### **Durham Fire Department**

For Immediate Release: May 24, 2016

## **Fire Up the Grill, Not the Deck**

*Durham Fire Department Offers Grill Safety Tips to Kick-off Grilling Season*

DURHAM, N.C. – For many, the month of May marks the beginning of grilling season. Fire officials are urging residents to grill safe distances from decks, homes and other combustibles.

According to Fire Marshal Edward Reid, apartment complexes are especially susceptible to grilling incidents due to decks and balconies and their proximity to buildings. “Giving grills and other heat sources space of at least 10 feet from balconies or other combustibles can greatly help to prevent fire incidents,” says Reid. “Grill related incidents can happen to anyone but using common sense, following the owners’ manual for the grill and practicing fire safety tips could be the difference between a safe grilling experience and a life changing event.”

According to Reid, City code prohibits the use of open flame devices such as grills within 10 feet of combustible materials including homes, building materials, and fencing

The department offers these additional grilling safety tips:

### **Safety Tips**

- Propane and charcoal grills should only be used outdoors.
- Use grills well away from the home, deck railings and out from under eaves and over-hanging branches.
- Keep children and pets away from the grill area.
- Never leave your grill unattended.
- If you experience a burn, never use butter or anything other than cool water on the burn. If severe enough, seek medical attention.

### **Charcoal Grills**

- If using a starter fluid, use only charcoal starter fluid and never add charcoal fluid or any other flammable liquids to the fire.
- Keep all fluids out of the reach of children and away from heat sources.
- When you are finished grilling, let the coals completely cool before disposing in a metal container.
- When extinguishing the charcoal grill, remember to put the fire out completely. Dispose of cold ashes by wrapping them in heavy-duty aluminum foil and putting them in a non-combustible container. Be sure there are no other combustible materials in or near the container.

### **Gas Grills**

- If using a gas grill, make sure there are no gas leaks by rubbing soapy water onto the gas hose and turning the gas on. If there is a leak, you will see bubbles appear. DO NOT ignite the grill. Buy a new hose before using the grill again.
- When shutting down your gas grill, shut off the propane tank or natural gas main shut-off valve and then shut off the burner control valves. This prevents residual gas from being left in the system under pressure.

For more information, contact Public Education Coordinator Sierra Mckoy with the Durham Fire Department at (919) 560-4233 ext. 19242 or by email at [Sierra.Mckoy@DurhamNC.gov](mailto:Sierra.Mckoy@DurhamNC.gov).

### **About the Durham Fire Department**

The Durham Fire Department strives to provide a cost-effective level of service designed to protect and prevent the loss of life and property from the adverse effects of fires, medical emergencies and exposure to dangerous conditions created by either man or nature. The department offers fire education and suppression programs; enforces state and city fire codes; investigates arson and the causes of fires; provides basic training skills to recruits and in-service personnel and conducts a preventive fire maintenance program to ensure equipment is dependable and efficient. To learn more, visit <http://DurhamNC.gov/ich/op/Fire/Pages/home.aspx> or “like” at <http://facebook.com/DurhamFireDepartment>.

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